Textile Museum

6611. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Textile Museum at Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project and the time schedule for completion ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Financial Crisis in Newsprint Industries

6612. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Newspring in Kottayam is facing financial crisis;

(b) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal for its expansion;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make the unit viable and profitable ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No Sir. However, on account of the market conditions, the production and financial performance of Hindustan Newspring Limited was affected in 1996-97.

(c) and (d) At present, Hindustan Newsprint, Limited is not considering any programme for its expansion.

(e) 10% customs duty has been levied on imported newsprint since October'96 and "Actual User Condition" has been imposed from January '97.

Central Investment Subsidy

6613. SHRI P.C. CHACKO :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent a memorandum to the Union Government for the Central Investment Subsidy Reimbursement claim;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of Supreme Court's decision for the grant of Central Investment Subsidy no action has been taken by the Union Government till date;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total amount of Central Investment Subsidy outstanding for Kerala; and

(f) by when a final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f) The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme which was introduced in August, 1971 for promoting industrialization of backward areas, ceased to exist on 30th September, 1988. As a sequel to Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 5.12.1995 which laid down the principles for consideration of applications for Central Investment Subsidy, the Kerala Government had indicated their requirement of funds to the extent of Rs. 11 crores as against which they had submitted specific claims worth Rs. 14.37 crores for reimbursement. Subsidy to the extent of Rs. 11.11 crores has already been reimbursed to the Government of Kerala on 31st March, 1997. The balance subsidy will be reimbursed to the State Government on availability of funds.

Imposition of Conditions on Indian Tea by Russia and E.C.

6614. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tea export from India has received a severe set back during the recent months due to a number of restrictive regulations imposed by Russia, Germany and other European countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the actual export performance of tea for the last twelve months in comparison to the corresoonding period of last year; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) While export of Indian tea to countries like UK and Ireland have increased during 1996-97, exports have shown a slight decline to countries like Russia, Germany and the